

Please add new Claim 13, as follows:

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13. (NEW) A display device according to Claim 1, wherein said surface adhesive layer comprises a copolymer having polymerized units of comonomers selected from the group consisting of (meth) acrylate esters, (meth) acrylate acid, (meth) acrylonitrile vinyl esters and vinyl esters.

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application.

Claims 1 and 3-13 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 7 being the independent claims. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 7, and added new dependent Claim 13.

Claims 7-9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 3,792,308 (Ota). Claims 10 and 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the Ota patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,172,798 (Albert et al.). Claims 1, 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the Ota patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,587,264 (Iijima et al.). Claims 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the Ota, Iijima et al. and Albert et al. patents. Applicants traverse these rejections.

As recited in independent Claim 1, Applicants' invention is directed to an electrophoretic display device of a cell structure. The device has at least two electrodes,

fixing surfaces, an electrophoretic layer and voltage application means. The electrophoretic layer is disposed in the cell and comprises an insulating liquid and colored charged particles disposed in the electrophoretic layer. The voltage application means applies a voltage between the electrodes thereby causing migration of the colored charged particles toward and collective attachment onto one of the fixing surfaces. The colored charged particles have a surface adhesive layer which allows for repetitive attachment onto and separation from the fixing surfaces of the colored charged particles. The surface adhesive layer comprises a polymer having a glass transition temperature of -35°C to +35°C.

As recited in independent Claim 7, Applicants' invention is also directed to an electrophoretic display device of a cell structure. The device includes at least two electrodes, fixing surfaces, an electrophoretic layer and voltage application means similar to those recited in independent Claim 1. With respect to Claim 7, the fixing surfaces are provided by a charged film formed on the associated electrodes. The charged film has a constant surface charge of a polarity opposite to that of the colored charged particles, regardless of a polarity of electricity supplied to the associated electrodes.

The Ota patent is directed to an electrophoretic display device having a luminescent electrophoretic suspension layer. Applicants submit that the Ota patent does not have colored charged particles with a surface adhesive layer allowing for repetitive attachment onto and separation from the fixing surfaces, and having the glass transition temperature recited in independent Claim 1.

The Iijima et al. patent is directed to an electrostatic information recording medium. The Office Action cites this document as describing a polymer having a low glass transition temperature. However, the portion of that patent cited in the Office Action with respect to that feature merely indicates that a recording medium may have a resin layer with a low glass transition temperature, preferably above +20°C. Applicants submit that it does not disclose an adhesive layer according to the present invention.

The Albert et al. patent is directed to an electrophoretic display. The Office Action merely cites this document as teaching electrodes mounted on the same plane. Applicants submit that this document fails to remedy the deficiencies noted above with respect to the Ota and Iijima, et al. patents.

With respect to independent Claim 7, Applicants submit that electrodes 8, 9 described in the Ota patent do not have a charged film with a constant surface charge of a polarity opposite to that of the colored charged particles, as recited in independent Claim 7. Applicants also submit that the Iijima et al. and Albert, et al. patents fail to remedy this deficiency.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Ota, Iijima et al. and Albert et al. patents, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of colored charged particles having a surface adhesive layer which allows for repetitive attachment onto and separation from fixing surfaces of the colored charged particles, with the surface adhesive layer comprising a polymer having a glass transition temperature of -35° C to +35° C, as recited in independent Claim 1. In addition, Applicants submit that those documents, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the

features of fixing surfaces provided by a charged film formed on associated electrodes, the charged film having a constant surface charge of a polarity opposite to that of colored charged particles, regardless of a polarity of electricity supplied to the associated electrodes, as recited in independent Claim 7.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that independent claims are allowable over the documents of record, and request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

The remaining claims in the present application are dependent claims which depend from the independent claims discussed above, and thus are patentable over the applied documents for the reasons noted above with respect to those independent claims.

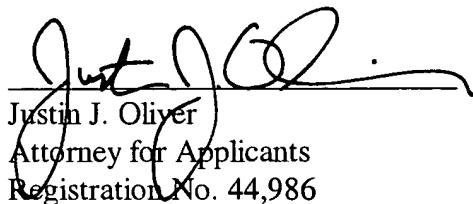
In addition, each recites features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied patents. Applicants request favorable and independent consideration thereof.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. At the very least, the Amendment reduces the number of issues on appeal. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicant believes that all outstanding matters in this application have been attended to, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests a notice thereof.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attorney Docket No.: 00684.002954  
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**VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW  
CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Amended) An electrophoretic display device of a cell structure,

comprising:

at least two electrodes;

fixing surfaces each associated with one of said at least two electrodes;

an electrophoretic layer disposed in the cell and comprising an insulating

liquid and colored charged particles disposed in said electrophoretic layer; and

voltage application means for applying a voltage between said electrodes

thereby causing migration of said colored charged particles toward and collective

attachment onto one of said fixing surfaces, [; and]

wherein said colored charged particles have a surface adhesive layer which

allows for repetitive attachment onto and separation from said fixing surfaces of said

colored charged particles, and said surface adhesive layer comprises a polymer having a

glass transition temperature (Tg) of -35°C to +35°C [an adhesive layer provided with at

least one of said fixing surfaces and said colored charged particles, said adhesive layer

allowing repetitive attachment thereto and separation therefrom of said colored charged

particles

wherein said adhesive layer comprises a copolymer having a glass transition temperature (Tg) of -35°C to +35°C and comprising polymerized units of comonomers

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selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylate esters, (meth)acrylate acid, (meth)acrylonitrile, vinyl esters and vinyl ethers].

7. (Amended) An electrophoretic display device of a cell structure, comprising:

at least two electrodes;

fixing surfaces each associated with one of said at least two electrodes;

an electrophoretic layer disposed in the cell and comprising an insulating liquid and colored charged particles disposed in said electrophoretic layer; and

voltage application means for applying a voltage between said electrodes thereby causing migration of said colored charged particles toward and collective attachment onto one of said fixing surfaces,

wherein said fixing surfaces are provided by a charged film formed on the associated electrodes, said charged film having a constant surface charge of a polarity opposite to that of said colored charged particles regardless of a polarity of electricity supplied to the associated electrodes [wherein said fixing surfaces are provided with a charged film having a constant surface charge of a polarity opposite to that of said colored charged particles].

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